

# The Hawaiian Star

DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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GEORGE F. HENSHALL .....MANAGER

TUESDAY .....DECEMBER, 15, 1908

## FORMING A DEMOCRATIC MACHINE.

It appears that the Democratic party may construct and strengthen a local machine without suffering any criticism from the esteemed Advertiser, though the Republicans may not ask that their county committee be listened to without receiving hard knocks and charges of "coercion" of elected officials and lawmakers. The Democrats have elected a man for mayor who promised ahead of the voting day and has often repeated since, that he would be guided by his advisers in the party, the county central committee, modestly admitting for himself a considerable lack of experience in such matters as he expects to be called upon to handle. In pursuance of this harmonious plan, the committee is passing upon names of men who apply for appointment and it is expected that if there is a Mayor Fern next January, he will select for office those whom the committee awards certificates as simon pure members of the organization. And he will do so. The lesson of Iaukea's quite absurd effort to stand in with both parties has not been lost. Out of sixteen positions to be filled by Fern and Jarrett, the Democratic County Committee in no less than twelve cases last night endorsed only a single applicant. This, as we have often pointed out before, is not mere party endorsement, but selection and dictation, on the part of the committee. We don't think anything in the Republican record can nearly match it. It is the Republican committee's custom to endorse all Republicans impartially, for offices to which they may aspire, and leave it to the appointing power to select from among those endorsed. If a committee names but one choice, it is simply trying to make the appointment.

The common sense of the matter here is the same as elsewhere: Our elections are going to be fought and won by one machine (or organization) or another, Republican, Democratic or Independent. There were signs in the last campaign that an Independent organization might win on a non-partisan basis, though as usual the Independent candidates running alone had little show. But an Independent organization will be a machine just the same as the others. San Francisco took an Independent streak when she elected Schmitz and put Ruef in power, voting down both the Republican and Democratic parties, or machines. The only plan ever discovered to keep these matters in order is for citizens to see that their own parties are kept clean. Meanwhile it does no good to give an utterly untrue impression that the local Republican party contains all the scalawags and grafters, for the people know much better.

## BRYAN'S NEW TRAINING GROUND.

William Jennings Bryan, a recent dispatch says, will be made Pooh-bah of Nebraska's Legislature, which meets the first of the year. The Democrats of Nebraska, in power for the first time in many years, hope to make the coming session memorable by enacting what they believe to be progressive laws, and at the same time make a record for efficiency and economy. So the Democratic members-elect are being lined up in support of their party platform by a pledge that they will seek the advice of Bryan before casting their votes on measures of most importance. Bryan has intimated that he will remain in Lincoln a good part of the winter, and if his advice is sought he will be on hand to give it. It is further stated that the talk is already going around that Bryan must be sent to the United States Senate two years hence in place of Senator Burkett.

All of which signifies that Bryan will train for the next Presidential race on the plaza of practical statesmanship. Whether it will do him more good than the world travel and the travail with tongue and pen whereby he trained unavailingly for this year's event time only can tell. The course now mapped out for and, it is to be presumed, by him should develop the real thing in Presidential timber if it is in him better than that of peripatetic dogmatism and broadcast propaganda of theories which he took last time. It is not, however, his first chance in this line, for he served a term in Congress without having set the Potomac on fire.

## TERRIBLE ACCIDENT RECORD.

If an earthquake should engulf a city of 35,000 inhabitants and shake the surrounding state to the more or less serious injury of two million of its people, there would be a catastrophe to stagger humanity. Yet within the compass of the past year that is the aggregate of lives lost and people temporarily or permanently crippled by accident in the United States, it being mentioned that "the largest number of casualties has been on the railroads." For the property loss in the suppositious city destroyed no doubt the account is more than balanced by the destruction from railroad wrecks, boiler explosions, fires, etc. Surely here is an argument for stringent legislation and its rigid enforcement in behalf of preventive measures in manufacturing, mining, transportation and other enterprises. The United States holds an unenviable pre-eminence among the nations for preventable death and injury to its inhabitants and devastation of its property. In its fires alone the record is appalling.

## THE POSTAL OUTLAWRY.

A two-cent letter rate between the United States and Germany will go into effect on January 1. It is to be presumed, after the ruling in the American-British penny postage matter, that Hawaii will not share in the American-German arrangement. Yet since annexation the two-cent postage between the United States and Canada and Mexico has been enjoyed by Hawaii, and when the Territory of Hawaii was created the postage system of Hawaii—one of the few systems in the world which was more than self-supporting—became completely merged in the postal system of the United States. Postmaster-ships in Hawaii are Presidential appointments and the postoffices here yield a respectable net revenue to the United States Treasury. Yet it appears that officials of the Postoffice Department have the power to place Hawaii in the position of only most favored foreign nations in postage matters. For that is the sum of the whole matter.

Hawaii is treated as part of the United States in the administration of its postoffices, but in postal arrangements with foreign coun-

tries Hawaii is merely put in their class. Canada and Mexico first, among foreign countries, had two-cent postage with the United States, in which at annexation Hawaii shared. Next came the United Kingdom and now comes Germany. Why should Hawaii be deemed part of the United States in postal relations with Canada and Mexico and a foreign country in the same connection with Great Britain and Germany? And why should Federal collectors of customs levy the full American tariff duties on British and German goods while at the same time exacting a higher rate of postage on the orders and invoices for such goods than importers on the mainland pay? What kind of connection is it which Hawaii has with the United States anyway, when it can be joined in the Treasury, the Judicial, the Interior and other departmental administrations, integrally, and be treated as a mere possession—nay, as here shown, even as a foreign country—in the Postoffice administration? To be consistent, the postal officials ought to prescribe distinctive postage stamps for Hawaii.

If there are no serious results it will go down in local history as the little pink slipper auto accident.

It were to be hoped, from the standpoint of charity, that the Democratic bread line should be marshalled before a more altruistic body than the Republican Board of Supervisors.

The Star on November 25 published the news, reported in this morning's Advertiser, that a large body of marines was to be stationed at Pearl Harbor, a piece of news which was then received by the Advertiser with the following somewhat incredulous comment: "We should like to know The Star's authority for the statement that two regiments of marines are going to be stationed at Pearl Harbor and Honolulu. It seems to be too good to be true."

There is certainly ground for complaints of tardiness, to put it very mildly, on the part of the police. The case of Cook, mentioned by the Advertiser, is not the only one. Not long ago an ugly disturbance on Beretania street, in Makiki district, alarmed the neighborhood. A frightened lady resident next door to the disturbance telephoned the police station for help and was promised it. In a couple of hours a police officer politely called and asked what was the trouble. He was told it was all over and he wasn't needed. Of course such disturbances cannot be expected to keep up for two hours just to accommodate the wonderful police department which this community has acquired.

Judge Hardy was certainly entitled to a reappointment to the office in which he has so long honorably served. His career on the bench has been a very notable one. More than once he has refused offers of an appointment to the Supreme bench, which came to him naturally as a consequence of his fine legal showing and personal character. Reports of his wish to retire some time ago were the cause of other candidacies for his position, but even if he be his wish soon to lay down the cares of his office, it is but meet that he should have the final honor of another reappointment. Judge Hardy has been on the bench continuously for over thirty years. King Kalakaua more than once on journeys to Kauai is reported to have made a counselor of the Kauai jurist. Hardy served through the stormy days of Liliuokalani, the revolutions, annexations, and on the formation of the Territory was at once appointed as an American Judge.

## MADE DUPES OF WORKING WOMEN

PORTLAND (Ore.), December 2.—In a musty office on the top floor of one of Portland's leading business blocks, the Federal authorities today unearthed one of the worst mail-order swindles ever found in this city. As a result H. C. von Neida was arrested for fraudulent use of the mails. He is now out on bail.

Von Neida did business under the name of the Pacific Apron Company, and his victims were working wo-

men. His game was to advertise for aprons, for which he offered \$3.50 a dozen. As a guarantee of good faith those who sold to him were required to deposit \$1. This, by a skillfully worded contract, reverted to Von Neida in case the aprons were not satisfactory, and they never were. His dupes numbered thousands. Von Neida came from Los Angeles.

The following bids for the construction of the new school house and cottage at Alae, South Kona, were received yesterday in the office of the Superintendent of Public Works: J. D. Lewis, \$3465; Otto Oss, \$3653; Thos. G. Andrews, \$3980; H. H. K. De Fries, \$4401; Cyrus T. Green, \$4775; G. W. McDougall, \$3800; A. Evensen, \$3963.

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